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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Angola,* Austria,* Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina,* Bulgaria,* Costa Rica,* Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus,* Denmark,* Djibouti,* Fiji,* France, Georgia, Germany, Greece,* Hungary,* Ireland,* Italy,* Latvia, Lebanon,* Liechtenstein,* Luxembourg,* Malawi,* Maldives, Malta,* Mexico, Montenegro,* Morocco, Netherlands, Norway,* Panama, Paraguay, Peru,* Poland,* Portugal, Republic of Moldova,* Romania,* Samoa,* Slovakia,* Slovenia, Spain,* Switzerland, Tunisia* Yemen:* draft resolution

31/... Human rights and the environment

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming all its resolutions on human rights and the environment, the latest of which is resolution 28/11 of 26 March 2015, and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and aiming to contribute to the full implementation of that Agenda by 2030, and to the high-level political forum on sustainable development as the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review thereof;

Recalling also the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, that the right to development must be fulfilled in order to meet the development and environmental needs of present and future generations equitably, and that the human person is the central subject of development and should be an active participant in and the beneficiary of the right to development,

* Non-member State of the Human Rights Council.

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Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Welcoming the Paris Agreement adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including its reference to human rights obligations,

Recognizing that sustainable development and the protection of the environment contribute to human well-being and to the enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing also, conversely, that climate change, the unsustainable management and use of natural resources and the unsound management of chemicals and waste may interfere with the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and that environmental damage can have negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of all human rights,

Recognizing further that, while the human rights implications of environmental damage are felt by individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by those segments of the population which are already in vulnerable situations,

1. *Welcomes* the work undertaken to date by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and takes note of his most recent reports on possible methods of implementing human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment[1] and on human rights obligations relating to climate change;[2]

2. *Also welcomes* the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the issue of human rights and the environment;

3. *Further welcomes* the work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme in support of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and in helping to clarify the relationship between human rights and the environment;

4. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To respect, protect and fulfil human rights, including in actions related to environmental challenges;

(b) To adopt and implement environmental and other laws ensuring, among other things, the rights to information, participation and access to justice;

(c) To facilitate public awareness and participation in environmental decision-making, including of civil society, women, youth and indigenous peoples, including by protecting the rights to freedom of expression and to freedom of peaceful assembly and association;

(d) To fully implement their obligations to respect and ensure human rights without distinction of any kind, including in the application of environmental laws and policies;

(e) To promote a safe and enabling environment in which individuals, groups and organs of society, including those working on human rights and environmental issues, can operate free from threats, hindrance and insecurity;

[1] A/HRC/31/53.
[2] A/HRC/31/52.

(f) To provide for effective remedies for human rights violations and abuses, including those related to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, in accordance with their obligations and commitments under international law;

(g) To take into account human rights obligations and commitments relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals, bearing in mind the integrated and multisectoral nature of the latter;

5. *Encourages* States:

(a) To adopt an effective normative framework for the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;

(b) To address compliance with human rights obligations and commitments relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the framework of human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review;

(c) To facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences between experts in the environmental and human rights fields, and to promote coherence among different policy areas;

(d) To build capacities for taking human rights obligations and commitments into account in their efforts to protect the environment;

(e) To explore ways to incorporate information on human rights and the environment, including climate change, in school curricula, in order to teach the next generations to act as agents of change, including by taking into account indigenous knowledge;

(f) To consider further the human rights perspective within the framework of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties, to be organized by Morocco in Marrakech from 7 to 18 November 2016;

(g) To seek to ensure that projects supported by environmental finance mechanisms respect all human rights;

(h) To collect disaggregated data on the effects of environmental harm on vulnerable groups, as appropriate;

(i) To promote environmental and climate action that is gender-responsive and takes into consideration the vulnerability of ecosystems and the needs of persons and communities in vulnerable situations;

(j) To continue to share good practices in fulfilling human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment through the good practices database maintained by the Special Rapporteur;

(k) To build capacity for the judicial sector to understand the relationship between human rights and the environment;

(l) To foster a responsible private business sector and to encourage corporate sustainability reporting, while protecting environmental standards in accordance with relevant international standards and agreements and other ongoing initiatives in this regard;

6. *Recognizes* the important role played by individuals, groups and organs of society, including human rights defenders, in the promotion and protection of human rights as they relate to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;

7. *Also recognizes* the important role of national human rights institutions in support of human rights relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;

8. *Stresses* the need for enhanced cooperation among States, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant international and regional organizations, agencies and programmes, including by regularly exchanging knowledge and ideas and building synergies in the protection of human rights and the protection of the environment, bearing in mind an integrated and multisectoral approach;

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter, in accordance with its annual programme of work.